

**CITY RESOLUTION NO CR-002-2021**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL CREATING THE  
“PROTECT THE CITY COMMITTEE” TO ADVISE THE LAFAYETTE CITY  
COUNCIL ON WHETHER CONSOLIDATION IS BENEFICIAL TO THE CITY OF  
LAFAYETTE**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Lafayette City Council, that:

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, a committee appointed to review the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Home Rule Charter (the “Home Rule Charter”) recommended deconsolidation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011 the Lafayette Charter Commission, after months of study, recommended deconsolidation, a measure that failed in a parish-wide vote; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, as part of an attempt to improve the Home Rule Charter, Parish of Lafayette voters approved charter amendments that, in part, established separate City and Parish Councils with the intent of providing more autonomy to the City of Lafayette, a suggestion made by elected officials who had opposed deconsolidation in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, in the year since the charter amendments became effective, it has become apparent that the charter amendments have failed to provide the level of autonomy the voters of Lafayette desired; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lafayette City Council has not been allowed control over city tax dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lafayette City Council has not been allowed to make motions or debate joint ordinances without Lafayette Parish Council concurrence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lafayette City Council has no control over departments and component units of government that are funded almost entirely by City of Lafayette tax dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the administration has continued to fight the Lafayette City Council’s attempts to seek a second legal opinion to determine whether the Home Rule Charter is being appropriately interpreted; and

**WHEREAS**, without a proper level of control and autonomy, the City Council is increasingly concerned that consolidation will continue to result in city tax dollars being improperly used to fund more than the city’s legal share of consolidated services; and

**WHEREAS**, the charter amendments, as implemented, did not fix the inherent problems with our Home Rule Charter, and this failure of implementation has made it more and more clear that consolidation is not providing any benefits to the citizens of the City of Lafayette; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lafayette City Council is convinced that an open, public, transparent discussion of the city’s continuing problems with our consolidated form of government will provide

the citizens and taxpayers of the City of Lafayette (each and every one of whom are also citizens and taxpayers of the Parish of Lafayette) the forum they deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, we are all Parish of Lafayette residents, so it is not “divisive” to insist that City of Lafayette residents should not shoulder more than their fair share of the burden of consolidated government.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Lafayette City Council, that:

**SECTION 1:** All of the aforescribed “Whereas” clauses are adopted as part of this resolution.

**SECTION 2:** The Lafayette City Council hereby forms the Protect the City Committee (the “Committee”) as an advisory committee.

**SECTION 3:** The Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members appointed by the Lafayette City Council, as follows:

**APPOINTMENTS MADE BY:**

City Council District 1 – Direct Appointment

City Council District 2 – Direct Appointment

City Council District 3 – Direct Appointment

City Council District 4 – Direct Appointment

City Council District 5 – Direct Appointment

City Council, as a whole – to be advertised

City Council, as a whole – to be advertised

All seven (7) members shall be registered voters and City of Lafayette residents.

**SECTION 4:** The Committee shall meet as often as is necessary, but at a minimum, shall meet on at least the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The terms of the committee members shall expire with either the filing of the committee’s final report with the Lafayette City Council or six (6) months after the Committee is appointed, whichever comes first. At the Committee’s first meeting, it shall elect from its members a chair and vice-chair. At the conclusion of its work, the Committee shall provide a final report that addresses, at a minimum, the following questions:

- How can the City Council best protect City of Lafayette tax dollars?
- How can the City Council best protect the rate-payer owned Lafayette Utilities System?
- How can the City Council best protect the interests of City of Lafayette citizens?
- Has consolidation lived up to the promises made in 1992 when it was voted on?

- How has the City of Lafayette's share of the cost of government services changed over time relative to the parish?

- How does the per capita share of consolidated services paid by a City of Lafayette resident differ from a resident of the unincorporated area or a resident of another municipality in our parish?

- Does the current system of cost allocation adequately communicate to the average citizen how the costs of consolidation are shared?

- Are city tax dollars being spent outside of the city limits of Lafayette?

- Are city tax dollars being spent to benefit something other than the City of Lafayette?

- Is consolidation fair to City of Lafayette taxpayers?

- Does consolidation result in a form of government that best represents the interests of City of Lafayette residents?

- Would deconsolidation benefit City of Lafayette residents, taxpayers, and businesses?

- What are the potential annual savings to the City of Lafayette after deconsolidation?

- Would the City of Lafayette be better served by having its own mayor?

**SECTION 5:** The City-Parish administration is encouraged, requested, and urged to provide information as requested by the committee so that it may be successful.

**SECTION 6:** In the event that a Lafayette Charter Commission is formed, appointed, and holds its first meeting before this Committee has provided its final report to the City Council, the Committee shall complete its work as soon as possible. Members of this Committee shall be eligible to serve on such a commission, provided they meet all other eligibility terms.

**SECTION 7:** All resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote on behalf of the Lafayette City Council thereon was as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

AND the resolution declared adopted on this, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

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VERONICA L. WILLIAMS  
LAFAYETTE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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**LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL FORM**

- 1) **JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:** A resolution of the Lafayette City Council creating the "Protect the City Committee" to advise the Lafayette City Council on whether consolidation is beneficial to the City of Lafayette.  
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- 2) **ACTION REQUESTED:** Adoption of Resolution
- 3) **REQUESTED ACTION OF LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL:**
  - A) INTRODUCTION: 01-19-2021
  - B) FINAL ADOPTION: 01-19-2021
- 4) **DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED WITH THIS REQUEST:**
  - A) Resolution
  - B) Submittal Form
- 5) **FISCAL IMPACT:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Impact (Explain)  
  X   No Fiscal Impact

AUTHORED BY:  
/s/ Patrick "Pat" Lewis  
PAT LEWIS, DISTRICT 1  
LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL